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Hollywood studio magazine

VOLUME 12, NO. 8/$1.50

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Jack Oakie

75th Anniversary Tribute at Pickfair

Jack Oakie's personal Collection Photos

Souvenir Edition

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MY JACK • Alice Faye
THE OAKIE HUMOR • Seamon Jacobs
OAKIE TRIBUTE • Lee Graham
OUTRAGEOUS MAN • Charlie Parker

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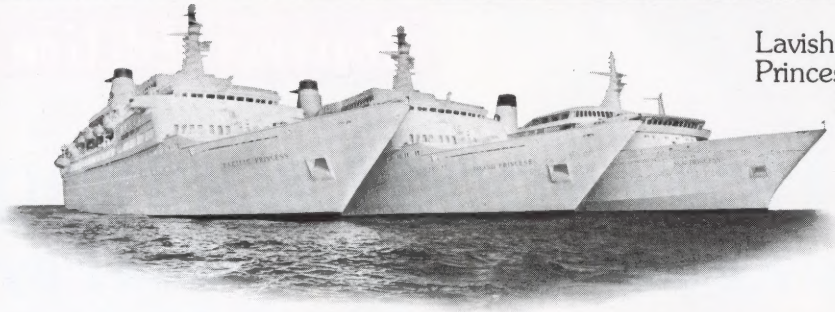

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ON THE COVER

Portrait study by artist Henry Sabin of famed star Jack Oakie, affectionately known as 'America's Joy Friend." This special issue is a tribute to Jack's seventy-fifth anniversary and announcement of The Oakie USC Scholarship Awards.

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OCTOBER, VOLUME 12, NO. 8/$1.50

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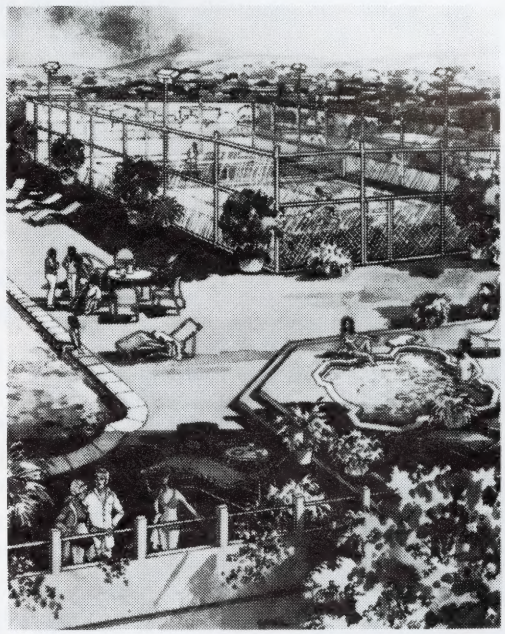

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MOVIEREEL

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Universal Studios is now shooting the **Prisoner of Zenda** in Vienna, starring Peter Sellers.

Production has begun on a two hour NBC movie **"Buck Rogers"** starring Gil Gerard.

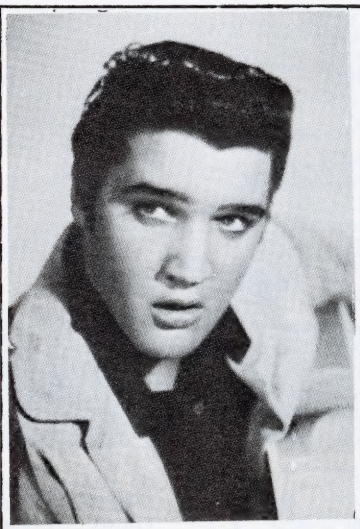
Yul Brynner, star of Broadway's "The King and I" was presented New York's Bronze Medallion for his artistic and humanitarian contributions to NYC including his work with the United Nations. Entertainment featuring Constance Towers and members of the cast highlighted the presentation at City Hall Plaza, NYC.

Valentino Memorial Rites were held (August 16) on the 52nd Anniversary of Valentino's death, at Hollywood Memorial Park. Mexican actor Eduardo Noriega gave the eulogy. Present were silent film star Mary MacLaren, "aura analyst" Barbara Martin and Vivian Ducan who sang a new song she wrote dedicated to the star.

Celebrity Dolls are being promoted in two versions more and more, as the TV characters they portray and as miniatures of the celebrities themselves. Mattel now has the Cheryl Ladd and Kate Jackson dolls and Mego Corp. has the Jaclyn Smith and Farrah Fawcett-Majors versions also "Lynda Carter - Wonder Woman."

Newest name on the 'Hollywood Walk of Fame' is that of Paul Robeson selected by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. So far 1700 names of famed entertainers have been placed on the stars.

THE COMEDIANS — Thanks to our readers for the many compliments on our September cover "The Comedians." The cover, a photograph of the mural on the wall of the famous Hollywood Pantages Theatre Bar was discovered by Lee Graham and photographer Yani Bekakis took the photograph of this old historic painting. The color transparency had to be shot twice for the color reproduction which appeared on HSM's cover.



The first anniversary of Elvis Presley's death (Aug. 16, 1977) brought out over 150,000 fans who traveled to Memphis, Tenn. to view the gravesites of Elvis and his mother Gladys on the grounds of Graceland Mansion which has become a mecca and shrine for their idol.

The 15th annual **Hugh O'Brian Acting Awards** will be held Oct. 11 in the MacGowan Playhouse of UCLA.

The annual acting competition, open to all theatre arts students at UCLA, was established in 1964. Since that time, UCLA undergraduates and graduates have been awarded a total of $32,500 in prize monies provided in perpetuity by O'Brian, himself an alumnus of the UCLA Theatre Arts Department.

COLUMBIA'S WORKSHOP

Columbia Pictures has established a Talent Development Workshop as a long-range move to find and develop new on-screen talent; projected Oct. 15 start.

Actor and director Joshua Shelley is the head of the workshop, and Arthur Hiller, Martin Ritt and Steven Spielberg are set to be the first film directors on the faculty.

The workshop is based at the Burbank Studios.

STAR-NEWS: — Katharine **Hepburn** stars in a two hour TV/movie **"The Corn Is Green"** to be presented in prime time during the 1978-79 season over CBS TV . . . **Greer Garson**, starring in KLAC's radio presentations of **"Evangeline,"** Salvation Army dramas . . . New commercial spokesman for Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. is *James* **Stewart** who signed a three year pact . . . for Pat Buttram Carbon Mike from Pacific Pioneers (Sept. 15) Hal Kanter, lunch chairman; Gene Autry and Arthur Godfrey joined the dais . . .**Stewart Granger** has emerged from semi-retirement in San Pedro de Alcantara for a role in **"The Wild Geese"** . . . 'Tis rumored that **Hedy Lamarr** is going into a cosmetic business in New

Continued on Page 50

A commemorative postage stamp of country music singer Jimmy Rodgers is the first in a series on American performing arts and artists. Known as the "Singing Brakeman," Rodgers was country music's first recording star and was the first member elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1961. The original artwork for the stamp will be displayed at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville on extended loan from the United States Postal Service.

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INDEX OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN BACK ISSUES

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1978 UPDATE

1978 UPDATE

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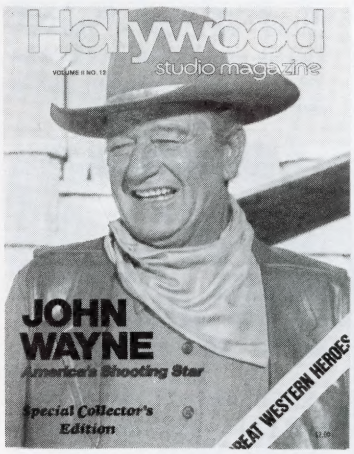
JEANETTE MAC DONALD & NELSON EDDY
Revival MacDonald-Eddy hits jams L.A. Theatre
GIA SCALA – Her true story by her sister Tina Scala



Hollywood
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Thalian's pay tribute to Love Goddess
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Keeping up with Janet Blair/Danish Film Institute
The Lone Ranger still rides/Movie Puzzle Quiz

7. **MAY 1966—VOL. 1, NO. 1**
★ "Calem's Encounter," Universal Studio News, A Bear by the Tail/Hanna Barbera, etc. A very few left.

8. **JULY 1966—VOL. 1, NO. 2**
★ "F" Troop series—ABC, Early Days of Hollywood—1925, Hanna Barbera's Elite Painting Corp, Disney Filmmaker, etc. A few left.

9. **AUGUST 1966—VOL. 1, NO. 3**
★ "The Big Cage" Where are they now? The legend of Valentino, Early Days of Hollywood/1925. Cover is a real Universal Studio collectors' item. A very few left.

10. **SEPTEMBER 1971—VOL. 6, NO. 5**
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12 **FEBRUARY 1972—VOL. 6, NO. 10**
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39 FEBRUARY 1976—VOL. 10, NO. 4
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50 MARCH 1977—VOL. 11, NO. 4 ★
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54 AUGUST 1977—VOL. 11, NO. 9 ★
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57 NOVEMBER 1977—VOL. 11, NO. 11
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58 DECEMBER 1977—VOL. 11, NO. 12 ★
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59 FEBRUARY 1978—VOL. 12, NO. 1
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60 MARCH 1978—VOL. 12, NO. 2
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61 APRIL 1978—VOL. 12, NO. 3 ★
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63 JUNE 1978—VOL. 12, NO. 5 ★
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65 SEPTEMBER 1978—VOL. 12, NO. 7
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A Walk into Yesterday

by John Stewart

I remember William Holden in a film with Constance Bennett and Eric Von Stroheim, "Three Faces East." Is that Holden the same as the one who played in "Network?"
Sara Thomas
Charter Oaks, CA

No, the role of Sir Winston Chamberlain in "Three Faces East" was played by William Holden (1872-1932). The current William Holden began his career in 1939 and his real name is William Franklin Beedle, born in 1918.

Thanks for answering my question in Oct. '77 issue, but it was Susan Hayward, not Howard, regarding "Back Street." I'm confused now.
B. Tragger
Menlo Park, CA

Don't be confused, it was Susan Hayward, not Howard. Sorry for the typo.

Once again I've had many requests for real names, I save these until I get several.

Jean Parker - Luis Stephanie Zèlinska
David Manners - Rauff de Rhther Duan Acklom
Betty Blythe - Elizabeth Blythe Slaughter
Renee Adoree - Renee de la Fonte
Hoot Gibson - Edward Gibson

What are "Wampas Baby Stars?" and what does Wampas stand for?
Gale P.
Bucklin, Kansas

They were actresses voted by the Western Association of Motion Picture Advertisers. The association issued certificates of merit to 13 women newcomers who showed promise.

Who was the leading lady in Barrymore's "Tempest"? I saw it recently on TV, but missed the credits. What are some of her films?
Ralph Grant
Yemasse, Georgia

That was Camilla Horn whose first lead role was in "Faust' (UFA 1920). Others include "The Return of Raffles," "A Street in Algiers," "Nemesis," and "Eternal Love."

Who played Nero in "Quo Vadis" released in 1926?
Guy Lamphere
Chapleau, Canada

Emil Jannings.

Continued on Page 49

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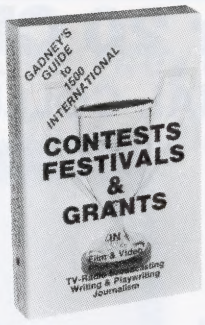

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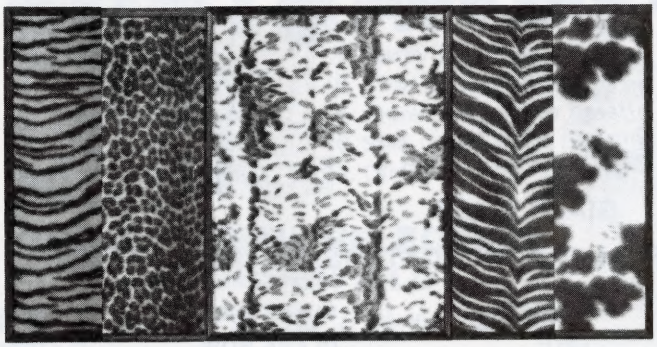

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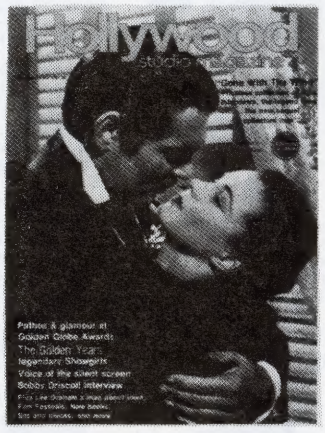

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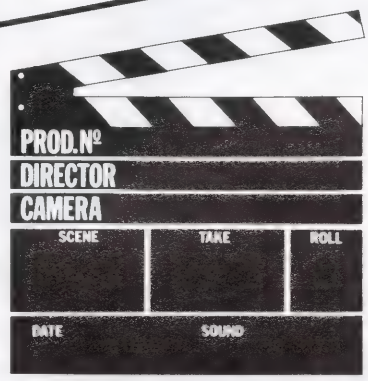

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FEUGUE IN D MINOR — A laugh a second, as a concert performer enters the stage, and begins to play his musical instrument. What makes this gem so funny, is that his "instrument" is a "Naked Girl"! Adults only. B/W
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THE DOLE BANANA COMMERCIAL — The TV Commercial that never made it to the tube, because it was considered too suggestive. See what we mean when Miss Hawaii dances to the music of Pink Floyd. COLOR
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THE LUCY-DESI CIGARETTE COMMERCIAL — America's fun loving couple is busy on selling their fans on running out and buying some cigarettes. This same reel also features a bonus blooper commercial of a girl "flubbing" her lines. B/W
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THE LONE RANGER PIZZA ROLL COMMERCIAL — That man from Lark and the Lone Ranger and Tonto star in Stan Freeburg's classic commercial. Clayton Moore & Jay Silverheels star. Have a Pizza Roll Kemo Sabay? COLOR
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GENO'S HEAD HUNTER COMMERCIAL — Another funny gag commercial by that mad genius. . .Stan Freeburg! Character actor Dave Willock stars. A perfect companion to the Lone Ranger Pizza Roll Commercial. COLOR
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THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BLOOPER — While doing a sketch with some dancers, TV Host Garry Moore danced along with them, by throwing his leg out in time with the music. Since he wasn't wearing any pants, every time his leg went out, so did something else. Poor 'ol Garry! B/W-Quality is only fair with picture and sound on this film.
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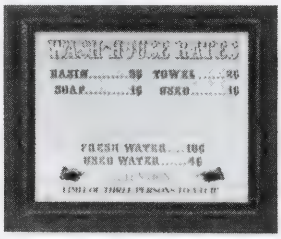

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SOMEONE I LOVE

Jack Oakie's Eulogy
given by
Charles "Buddy" Rogers
Wednesday, January 25, 1978

Lewis Delaney Offield, born in Sedalia, Missouri and Charles Edward Rogers, born in Olathe, Kansas, about the same year. The Missouri boy and the Kansas kid . . . Jack and Buddy. They were destined to meet and we did, over fifty years ago in Hollywood at Paramount.

At the studio, four young actors shared a dressing room . . . Jack Oakie, Gary Cooper, Dick Arlen and Buddy Rogers. We were together so much that they labeled us the "Four Muskateers" and it was just that too . . . we were that close. So close that the four of us made a pact that if one of us didn't have his contract renewed the other three would share their money and their food with the unfortunate one. That was during the "silents" . . . a year before the "talkies," we were told that only one voice out of a hundred would record for the new sound movie and the four of us were plenty worried and frightened.

At that very time Paramount built a new sound stage to find out who would make the change to talking movies.

The first star to make the test was Wally Berry and four of us watched the door of the sound stage hour after hour, eagerly awaiting the outcome. Late that afternoon a young man burst from the door and he shouted to everyone, "Wally Berry has a voice. Wally has a voice."

Well, we found out that Jack had a voice too . . . one of the greatest, not only his speaking, but his singing.

Jack became so popular with those early musicals at Paramount, that they had to add four new secretaries to handle his fan mail.

I'll never forget the day when the entire studio stopped production on all the stages for five minutes and Mr. Zukor and Mr. Lasky proclaimed that Jack's new name would be now and forever "America's Joy Friend" and that it has been for all these years; through his films, his personal life, from his musicals, his high comedies to his magnificent performances as a great dramatic actor.

What a great pleasure it was a few years ago to see two geniuses working together . . . Oakie and Chaplin. They are probably together right now working on a brilliant new heavenly picture. But, I really think about the most perfect Hollywood production was the love story co-starring Vickie and Jack.

Yes, dearest Vickie, your great love and devotion all these years now frees you of all the weight and pain of living. You two will never be separated . . . for your love is eternal. So be consoled dear, with the spiritual promise that neither time nor death can separate you and Jack.

God will wipe out every tear from your eyes and death will be no more . . . neither will mourning nor pain be anymore.

Now what can the last of the Muskateers say?

There was something about his smile, something about his laugh. Jack knew more people by first name than anyone I've ever known. He was lovable, helpful, brilliant, inspired, kind, amusing, a lover of the arts, a first nighter, a man with never a harsh word, never without a smiling face. Oh, he had a big, swaggering walk with flailing open arms that said, "Howdy friend." He was not just "America's Joy Friend," but the worlds.

Buddy Rogers and Jack Oakie from "Someone to Love."

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Invitation contributed by Mrs. Frank Vessels, Jr.

THE COVER
Portrait of Jack Oakie by Henry Sabin . . . Back cover - Jack's favorite movie which he made for Paramount in 1929. "Oakie Goes to Bat- Oakie Still at Bat." from "Elmer The Great." The painting by Gene Boyer, Saturday Evening Post artist commemorated Jack's 50 years in Hollywood.

This special 75th Anniversary Tribute to Jack Oakie and announcement of the Jack Oakie Awards being given to the University of Southern California for the Jack Oakie Library and Cinema Scholarship fund appears in the regular issue of Hollywood Studio Magazine and this Souvenir Edition to be presented to guests at Pickfair in a garden gala on October 8, 1978.

The tribute to "America's Joy Friend" as Jack was known by his co-workers and film fans coincides with his 75th birthday which would have been November, 12.

A Personal Note
Jack was a very special person that always left me with a good feeling. I am proud I knew him, and his void will make the world a less happy place for us all.

Montgomery R. Fisher
Vice Chairman
USC Board of Trustees

Watch for Jack Oakie's Autobiographical Anecdotes to be published in March 1979.

Hollywood
studio magazine
"Each issue a Collectors' item"

Jack Oakie at the Round Table in his memorabilia room.

JACK OAKIE ARCHIVES

During his lifetime, Jack Oakie contributed much of his memorabilia, including photographs, scripts, radio transcriptions and other materials of interest to students of the performing arts to the University of Southern California.

USC, which has one of the largest and most valuable collections related to motion pictures in the United States, greatly appreciates Jack's generosity and wishes to remember and honor his cinematic contributions.

The University plans to construct a new performing arts library building which will include a special Jack Oakie Archives room. This building, and its Jack Oakie Archives, will house all library research materials in performing arts and provide services to students and faculties of colleges and universities throughout the nation.

Contributions to USC Jack Oakie Fund will honor the extraordinary career of Jack and provide invaluable resources for students of the future. ☆

THE OAKIE HUMOR

by Seaman Jacobs

I liked Jack Oakie because he was always Jack Oakie, on the screen and off. You know what I mean. Jack was real. Jack was funny and fun loving. Jack was genuine. If you knew him only from his movies, you knew him pretty well.

Maybe in his very active private life Jack didn't run around with a football like he did at Paramount, but he did wear one of the six different major league baseball uniforms (which Ron Fairly gave him), at intimate restaurants like Dominick's and the Sea Cove.

In later life the ubiquitous Oakie became an exuberant fixture on the contemporary scene. He was aptly described as "a giant of the past mingling with the pygmies of the present." When asked why he went to every first night, Jack said, "I don't want to miss anything. They might be the last night too."

***

Jack was a character all right. And, the character he never stopped playing was Jack Oakie.

***

When I met Jack in 1958, he was one of the celebrity guest speakers at a comedy writers' stag dinner honoring Hugh Wedlock and Howard Snyder, who had written Jack's first radio show. Snyder said, "If Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin think they're nonchalant, let me tell you Jack Oakie did his show lying down from a Turkish bath."

From that night on the Oakies and I became friends. Almost twenty years later I was proud to be in a handful of intimates he invited to help celebrate his 74th birthday, his last.

***

Jack bought his Northridge manse from Frank Fay and Barbara Stanwyck. He always said he couldn't decide whether to call it Santa Fay or Santa Barbara.

The ten-acre estate, which he shared with Vickie, a grass-cutting coterie of rabbits and Ike Eisenhower's golf cart, is the last vestige of lush living in a neighborhood that was closing in on them. Chevrolet dealers wanted to buy. Real estate developers tried to coax a couple of acres out of Jack. To all of them he said "no way." Did the O'Haras sell Tara? When next-door neighbors a quarter-mile away objected to Jack's swimming nude in his pool, he beamed, "If they can see anything from that distance, I'm better equipped than I thought."

Jack and Vickie were watching a crucial football game on television. This was the one that the camera cut to shy, inhibited Edy Williams in the stands. As a nation leered, Edy started to strip. Jack turned to Vickie. "This is the first time," he said, "I ever saw an X-rated football game.

***

Jack never admitted to the extent of his wealth, but he never denied it either. He had invested wisely from the beginning. He'd say, "I had AT&T when it was American Smoke Signal . . . I bought General Electric when it was General Candle."

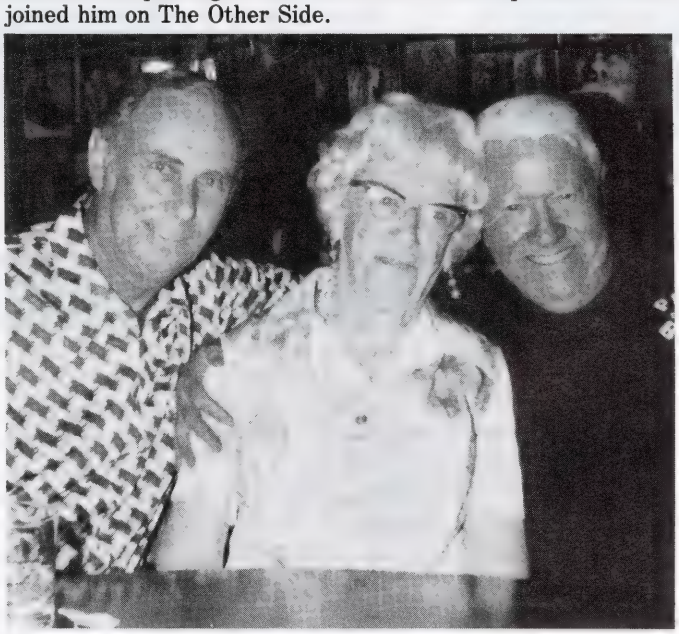
"How much are you worth, Jack?" I rudely teased one day, hoping to get him off-guard.

"What's the difference?" he grinned. "The main thing is I've got Vickie and I'm a happy man. Money doesn't mean that much. A man with ten million dollars is no happier than a man with nine." Since I have nine million dollars, I was glad to hear that. But it did take away some of my incentive.

***

Jack looked, acted, dressed and lived like an actor. He had a memory that never stopped astounding his friends. He could recite the cast and date of every picture he ever made. He could tell you exactly where to find it in his library of beautifully bound scrapbooks.

When my mother moved out here at the age of 85, Jack made Frankie his friend. He had been crazy about his own mother and he was especially fond of all older people. He and Vickie never missed my mother's birthday parties. She adored him. At 99 she mourned the passing of her friend Jack. Last April at 99½ she joined him on The Other Side.



Jack bought a "six unit" cemetery plot when his mother died. He used to tell pretty ladies, "I've got lots of room at Forest Lawn. Would you like to lay with me?"

If there's such a thing as reincarnation, I hope Jack Oakie comes back as Jack Oakie.

Then we wouldn't have to miss him any more. ☆

Eight years ago Lee Graham brought Miriam Hopkins to the Oakie's Northridge ranch where she and Jack reminisced about their only film together, "Dancers In the Dark" ('32).

Jack Oakie with Mary Brian and Laura LaPlante at Dale Olson's Party for Jack's 50th Anniversary in Hollywood, June 13th, 1927.

When Toby Wing, looking sensational, was here from her Miami home four years ago she spent a Sunday in the Oakie's playroom. She told Jack her role with him in "Murder At the Vanities" ('34) was the biggest one she ever played.

Jack is immortalized in cement by Sid Grauman at the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

Osculation, Oakie-style, as Jayne Meadows gets a kiss at a Mark Taper Forum opening.

OUTRAGEOUS MAN

by Charles Parker

November 12, 1977 — Jack's last birthday with the boys: Ron Fairly and Lee Graham. Standing: Charlie Parker, The Birthday Boy, George Fischbeck and James Bacon.

Until I met Jack Oakie, I never really understood the full meaning of the phrase *joie de vivre.*

Most of us conduct our lives like we maintain our savings account; making periodic investments and withdrawing a modicum of happiness when we feel righteous enough to permit it.

Not Oakie. Jack plundered the banks of life, swaggering along their corridors with the boldness and verve of a highwayman, looting huge banks of adventure, love and laughter with an Olympian appetite, disdaining precaution and sneering at adversity. Oakie, truly, lived in the fast lane.

But as much as he took from life, Jack's balance never was overdrawn, because his generosity would have given Santa Claus an inferiority complex. Whether he was enthralling millions in motion picture theaters or regaling a handful of friends in his home, Jack poured every ounce of himself — his energy, his humor, his thoughtfulness and compassion — into bringing happiness to the world. I often thought that what Jack wanted most out of life was not the adulation and trappings that are concurrent with movie stardom, but the opportunity to spread love and joy.

Jack Oakie was an outrageous man. I use that word knowing that its definition includes overstepping the boundaries of propriety, because Jack often hurtled those barriers to bring off the belly laugh and in doing so exposed many of society's idiosyncrasies as bunk.

An example of Oakie outrageousness: invited to dinner one night at the Oakie home, I was informed on arrival by Jack's adoring (and adorable) wife, Vickie, that a friend of the Oakies I hadn't met, a female judge, would be joining us. I'll call her Mary Smith because that isn't her name. I was standing at the bar, assisting Jack in his campaign to rid the world of 12-year-old Cutty Sark, when a distinguished sophisticated woman entered the room.

"There she is," roared Jack. "Judge Mary Smith. "Fifty years old and never had a bath!"

One of the most marvelous things about Oakie was he never grew up, never lost his boyish enthusiasm. Ron Fairly, now a California Angels' first baseman, was reared as a neighbor to the Oakies. When Ron made it to the big leagues, he had a team uniform tailored for Jack's rotund frame. Each time Ron was traded to another team — and there have been many — he sent Jack a new uniform and Jack loved them. I see him now, seated in his party room in his St. Louis Cardinals uniform with the small red cap perched on that beautiful stand of white hair.

Jack loved his party room, with all four walls crowded with production stills and photos of the giants in the film industry with whom he had worked. And Jack loved parties. For the past few years, as Jack's birthday approached, Vickie would ask him if he wanted her to toss a big party. "No," Jack would reply, "let's just get a few of the really good, all-pro drinkers like Jim Bacon and Lee Graham and Good Old Charlie Parker out here." Bacon and I have discussed that, but we've never been sure whether Jack meant it as a compliment or as a statement of fact.

Oakie had the most phenomenal memory I have ever witnessed in action. There probably wasn't a single incident in his long and remarkable career that he didn't recall in graphic detail. And what a pleasure it was for us — friends, fans, film buffs — to sit and listen to him for hours as he told his stories, from how he taught Joan Crawford to tap dance in the car barns in New York City to the day he "mooned" Clark Gable from a hotel window in Avalon.

I miss him and always will. But I am consoled by what our mutual friend, Dr. George Fischbeck, said to me at Jack's final appearance last January. "We will miss his not being here," said George, "but thank God for the time we had with him." ☆

THE AMIABLE THIEF

by Hal Kanter

"LUCY LOVES JACK" from "Affairs of Annabel" (1938 RKO)

It's unfortunate that we can't all be movie stars at least for a little while.

It's fortunate that Jack Oakie was one for a long while.

Lewis D. Offield, who was born 75 years ago in Sedalia, Missouri, is dead.

But Jack Oakie - the actor he became - remains energetically alive at the flick of a projectionist's switch.

Starting with his first film, "Finders Keepers" in 1927, his incandescent personality lit up our theaters and our hearts in scores of performances that ranged from variety and slapstick to melodrama and romance with a grace, ease and naturalness few of his peers ever achieved.

But he was a thief.

I said it to his beaming face and I say it again: Jack Oakie, you're a thief!

An actor could enter Egypt in broad daylight and make away with one of the pyramids easier than he could steal a scene from Jack Oakie. Yet Oakie could probably have stolen the Sphynx itself were he of a more larcenous disposition than his indigenous Missouri morality imposed.

There are many who would contest that Oakie possessed a morality that presupposed larceny but they, of course, are the victims of his theft who discovered, always after the fact, that he had adroitly plucked a scene from under their noses, wrapped it around himself and nimbly pranced away with the audience's attention.

The Amiable Thief not only stole "The Great Dictator" from Chaplin; he won an Oscar nomination.

Say what?

Consider the loftiest example of Oakie's larcenous art: "The Great Dictator". Although Charles Chaplin wrote, directed and produced that hilarious indictment of tyranny and madness, the master was put on the shadowy side of the screen in those scenes he shared with my late friend.

Perhaps it's a tribute to Chaplin's appreciation of Oakie's artistry that he didn't edit those scenes to diminish the impact of his co-star. Or perhaps it's a tribute to Jack that no amount of editing could diminish him.

Chaplin is gone now, too. So are Doug Fairbanks, Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Joan Crawford, Jean Harlow, Marie Dressler, Wally Beery, Will Rogers, Al Jolson and that small galaxy of others who had what Jack Oakie had: unique and distinct personalities that served as the yardsticks by which we measured all others.

They can't show up for an 8 A.M. shoot tomorrow morning, but they can all show up on a screen with that flick of the projectionist's switch. And, when we get unduly excited — as we too often do — about today's lacklustre personalities who have reached stardom more through hype than honesty, we would do well to flick that switch and see again that today's crop are all inadequate retreads of the originals.

And woe would befall any of them were they to share a lens with Jack Oakie, that amiable thief. ☆

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACK

by Dale Olson

Francine York and Dale Olson help Jack cut the cake at Dale's party celebrating Oakie's 50 years in Hollywood.

A funny thing happened in Heaven last January 23. That was the day Jack Oakie put on his Angel's wings and joined such earlier associates as Chaplin, Keaton, Laurel and Hardy and probably stole the scene. I can just see the master of the triple take walking through the clouds and taking over.

At the same time, following the usual solemn and loving funeral at Forest Lawn, those of us who were closest to America's king of joy gathered at his favorite watering hole, Chasen's, to raise a glass, eat some chili and, of course, to laugh. How could we be sad? The stories were legion, the memories alive and they would always be with us, a part of our lives that can never leave us. He would have laughed, too.

If there was sadness, it was a selfish kind of sadness. There would be no more of the famous Jack Oakie birthday parties. In recent years several of these had been held at my home and I announced that day that there would be one more - Jack's 75th. We had to celebrate and we would. That party has turned into today's celebration and Jack would have been proud that it is a benefit for his beloved University of Southern California.

Only last year, we had celebrated Jack's 50th anniversary in Hollywood. It was June 13, 1927, when a Broadway hoofer and comedian named Jack Oakie arrived in Hollywood. He was spotted by Wesley Ruggles and put into his first movie - *"Finders Keepers,"* starring Laura LaPlante, at Universal Pictures.

A birthday hug from Dave Chasen on Jack's 68th.

Old friend Gene Raymond wished Jack a happy 68th birthday.

That film began an enduring career that made Jack one of the most popular figures in Hollywood, loved by his peers and fans alike, and celebrated around the world.

My first real meeting with Jack and his beloved Vickie came some 10 years ago, again at one of his birthday celebrations, this one a small gathering around the famed oak round table in the photograph-covered den of his sprawling San Fernando Valley mansion. It was story-telling night. Out came the glasses with the gold-emblazoned Oakie caricature, the matches he used as his calling card, and the friends who never tired of the vivacious Oakie personality. I was dating a very talented young actress with the unusual name of (Miss) Christopher West at the time. Christopher had studied with some of the great acting coaches of the business and had perfected her craft. But, when Oakie learned she was a young actress, he turned his attentions to her and spent the evening talking about acting in the movies. Later, as we drove home, she remarked that she had learned more about acting from an evening with Oakie than from any teacher or class she had ever been involved with.

Jack, it seems, was always in show business. Even his name connotated a show business flair. Born Lewis Delaney Offield on November 12, 1903, in Sedalia, Missouri, he choose his name later in his career because his father moved him to Muskogee, Oklahoma as a youngster. Thus, it became "Oakie from Muskogee."

Not particularly interested in schooling, Jack soon found himself heading for New York, where he first landed a job as a chorus boy in George M. Cohan's "Little Nelly Kelly." On January 8, 1924, he opened at Atlantic City as one of the Moulin Rouge Boys in *"Innocent Eyes,"* a show starring Mistinguett, Cecil Leon, Cleo Mayfield and Frances Williams. Thereafter, Oakie was a chorus boy in the Shuberts' *"Artist and Models,"* in Rodgers and Hart's musical *"Peggy-Ann,"* where he first worked with Lulu McConnell with whom he frequently partnered over the years.

Upon breaking into Hollywood, he soon went under contract to Paramount Pictures, staying there nine years, working first in silent pictures and continuing successfully through sound, technicolor and every new advent in the film industry. He has worked with virtually every major star of his day from Clara Bow to Clark Gable, Fredric March, Loretta Young, Alice Faye, Ronald Colman, among many. For his classic portrayal of Mussolini in *"The Great Dictator"* with Charlie Chaplin he won an Academy Award nomination. While young stars at Paramount, Oakie shared a star dressing room with Buddy Rogers, Richard Arlen and Gary Cooper and the group became known affectionately throughout town as "The Four Musketeers."

During the course of his long career, Jack was the star of numerous radio and television shows and recorded such hits as *"Take A Number From One to Ten,"* the title song from *"College Rhythm"* and *"Miss Brown to You"* and *"Why Dream?"* from his film *"The Big Broadcast of 1936."*

So successful and popular was Oakie that many people soon called him the "insurance man" of movies. It seemed that films with Oakie in the cast were always successful.

Jack was married for 34 years to actress Victoria Horne, who fondly says "he retired me after I made *'Harvey'* with James Stewart." Vickie Oakie still maintains the family estate, Marwick, formerly the home of Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Taylor, where the Sundays with the Oakies were the setting of frolics involving many of the greatest names in Hollywood. ☆

MY JACK by Alice Faye

Betty Grable and Alice Faye with Oakie in "Tin Pan Alley."

"Jack Oakie is one of those people who happen rarely in your life, particularly in the motion picture business. He became a lifelong friend, co-worker and buddy all at the same time. It was a beautiful love affair that will never end for me."

My relationship with Jack started with "King of Burlesque" more years ago than any of us care to mention, but it began such a whirlwind of work and play that the memories will linger forever. Working with Jack was both challenging and fun. After all, he was the king of the triple take and to keep any attention on yourself from the audience while Jack was onscreen was almost impossible. Jack was funny all of the time, but oh, my, he was serious about his work. He knew that camera and the camera loved him as much as he loved it. He seemed to know how to manipulate it, to make it do exactly what he wanted it to do and even if the scene was mine somehow Jack was there and his presence was felt.

"King of Burlesque" was both fun and historic. Not only was it Jack's and my first picture together, but it also was the first time on screen for a charming little girl who made her film debut on a swing in the picture. Her name was Jane Wyman.

I suppose the most famous of all the pictures Jack and I made together was "Tin Pan Alley", although "Hello, Frisco Hello" certainly runs a close second. The fourth was "Great American Broadcast". Those were the days of the musicals, lush in color and filled with great songs and dances. It was "Frisco" in which I was given one of the greatest songs of my career, "You'll Never Know," and I was thrilled that Patricia Morison sang that song at Jack's funeral. I was only sorry I had to be in N.Y. at the time.

It was a constant party in Hollywood when Jack and I worked together and we worked hard on the set and then played hard afterward. Jack was always the leader and always one for fun and laughs. His energy was incredible.

I guess I was really Jack's "little girl." He always took care of me, whether it was during work or in my personal life. It was Jack who introduced me to Phil Harris. Jack was insistent that we meet and organized events that put us together. He knew even before I did the person who would be my lifelong companion.

I won't miss Jack because he is always with me, just as he is always with the millions of people all over the world whom he touched with his humanity and his humor. ☆

San Francisco at the turn of the century. Oakie and Alice Faye in a nostalgic moment from "Hello, Frisco, Hello."

"HELLO-FRISCO-HELLO"

by Robert Kendall Hollywood Studio Magazine Staff Writer

Alice Faye, Jack Oakie and John Payne in "The Great American Broadcast."

When Jack Oakie introduced Alice Faye in a musical sequence in the film, "Hello, Frisco, Hello," he announced, " . . . and now we present the girl who gives her heart with every song!"

And if Jack Oakie were to be introduced, we might announce, ". . . and now we present Jack Oakie, the comedian who gives a laugh with *every* line!"

For Jack Oakie's wise-cracking good humor kept many movies gliding along at a brisk pace.

Alice Faye and Jack Oakie starred together in "Tin Pan Alley," the musical comedy that presented Fox's two fabulous blondes Alice and Betty Grable singing and dancing together.

Jack Oakie and John Payne completed the cast, and as usual Oakie mixed comedy, music and song to make it one of his most entertaining movie appearances. Then there was the film, "The Great American Broadcast," starring Alice Faye, Jack Oakie and John Payne, re-capturing the nostalgic early days of radio.

However, the technicolored musical, "Hello, Frisco, Hello," set in San Francisco at the turn-of-the-century brought Alice together again with John Payne, Jack Oakie, and introduced June Havoc to the Fox musical series. Jack Oakie danced, sang, and cavorted across the screen in some of the funniest scenes ever filmed.

Films buffs line up at revivals of these colorful movies, and when Alice Faye made a stage comeback in "Good News," Jack Oakie was on hand to congratulate her. ☆

Jack Oakie Films

FINDERS KEEPERS
ROAD HOUSE
THE FLEET'S IN
SOMEONE TO LOVE
SIN TOWN
CHINATOWN NIGHTS
THE WILD PARTY
CLOSE HARMONY
THE DUMMY
THE MAN I LOVE
FAST COMPANY
STREET GIRL
HARD TO GET
SWEETIE
PARAMOUNT ON PARADE
HIT THE DECK
THE SOCIAL LION
LET'S GO NATIVE
THE SAP FROM SYRACUSE
SEA LEGS
THE GANG BUSTER
JUNE MOON
DUDE RANCH
TOUCHDOWN
DANCERS IN THE DARK
SKY BRIDE
MAKE ME A STAR
MILLION DOLLAR LEGS
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
IF I HAD A MILLION
ONCE IN A LIFETIME
UPTOWN NEW YORK
FROM HELL TO HEAVEN
SAILOR BE GOOD
THE EAGLE AND THE HAWK
COLLEGE HUMOR
TOO MUCH HARMONY
SITTING PRETTY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
LOOKING FOR TROUBLE
MURDER AT THE VANITIES
SHOOT THE WORKS
COLLEGE RHYTHM
THE CALL OF THE WILD
THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1936
KING OF BURLESQUE
COLLEGIATE
COLLEEN
FLORIDA SPECIAL
THE TEXAS RANGERS
THAT GIRL FROM PARIS
CHAMPAGNE WALTZ
SUPER SLEUTH
THE TOAST OF NEW YORK
FIGHT FOR YOUR LADY
HITTING A NEW HIGH
RADIO CITY REVELS
THE AFFAIRS OF ANNABEL
ANNABEL TAKES A TOUR
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING
YOUNG PEOPLE
THE GREAT DICTATOR
TIN PAN ALLEY
LITTLE MEN
RISE AND SHINE
THE GREAT AMERICAN BROADCAST
NAVY BLUES
SONG OF THE ISLANDS
HELLO, FRISCO, HELLO
WINTERTIME
SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT
IT HAPPENED TOMORROW
THE MERRY MONAHANS
SWEET AND LOW DOWN
BOWERY TO BROADWAY
THAT'S THE SPIRIT
ON STAGE EVERYBODY
SHE WROTE THE BOOK
NORTHWEST STAMPEDE
WHEN MY BABY SMILES AT ME
THIEVES' HIGHWAY
THE LAST OF THE BUCCANEERS
TOMAHAWK
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
THE WONDERFUL COUNTRY
THE RAT RACE
LOVER COME BACK

June Havoc, Oakie, Alice Faye and John Payne as entertainers struggling for recognition in "Hello, Frisco, Hello" (1943), set on the Barbary Coast.

Alice Faye and Jack Oakie at her opening night of "Good News."

JACK OAKIE

Kept Them Laughing

Through Hollywood's Golden Years

by Kirk Crivello
Hollywood Studio Magazine
Staff Writer

When the movies learned to talk, it brought along a new breed of laugh-makers and Jack Oakie was one of the greatest funnymen to emerge. To think about him now, at the close of the 1970s, is to realize with sorrow and double sense of loss how much we and the world have changed and how distant and uncomplicated his time already seems. Oakie worked very hard at his craft, but our impression of his bemusement made the roles somehow seem all the more credible. His face was marvelously expressive — a natural comic.

The persona of Oakie that Paramount so expertly created of him in the early years, the famous "triple fade" which was actually a double take with one more thrown in to milk the laughs is hard to forget. When sound arrived, unlike some other stars, Oakie had no problems. Once Oakie was asked about his co-star Clara Bow. He said: "Clara never successfully made the transition to talkies, in part because of her strong Brooklyn accent, but she was a great actress. They also appeared together in *"The Fleet's In."*

Jack's Leading Ladies

By the early 1930s, Oakie was enjoying prestige, success and an enormous following. He was always surrounded by Hollywood's memorable foils — Joan Blondell, Helen Kane, Lillian Roth, Sally Eilers, Martha Raye, Joan Davis, Lyda Roberti and Arline Judge, first in *"Looking For Trouble,"* then *"Shoot The Works,"* and again in hot pursuit of the elusive Oakie in *"King of Burlesque"* all fell in love with him on the screen.

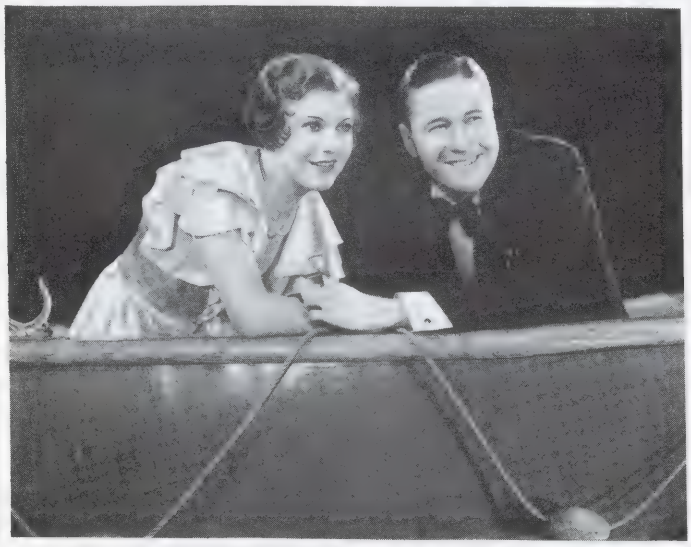
In his final years, long-ago leading ladies still attended his annual lavish birthday parties at his estate in the San Fernando Valley. Reminiscing about early Hollywood at the ten-acre English manor home were Mary Brian, Toby Wing, Wynne Gibson, Laura LaPlante, Virginia Grey, Jane Wyman and of course, his dear friend, Alice Faye. Oakie often teased Alice about her Harlowish temptress days. They all remained close to the end because of a basic and continuing affection.

When he married lovely actress Victoria Horne, she abandoned her promising career, having won excellent notices of her role as Myrtle Mae in James Stewart's *"Harvey."* The Oakie-Horne 34 year marriage was a happy one, becoming a symbol for the ideal relationship, surviving in the sometime plastic community of Hollywood, perfection in almost story book terms.

Watching Jack Oakie's films today, with the perspective of history, is not only a comfort but a joy for they continue to rock audiences with laughter and reach across the years to successive generations. His famed doubletake, wit, and the ability to make the most of his reputation have served him well. He lived life to the fullest and once summed up his career in a revealing four-word catch phrase he employed for years: "It's all in fun!" ☆

Charles "Buddy" Rogers, Oakie and William Austin admire a photograph of their favorite movie actress Mary Brian on the set of "Someone To Love" (1928).

For "Paramount On Parade" (1930) Oakie was an instructor and Zelma O'Neal his jealous sweetheart in the 'In A Girl's Gym' segment. They sang "I'm In Training For You."



A brunette Ginger Rogers and Oakie, as a crane driver in "The Sap From Syracuse" (1930). They would later sing and dance in "Sitting Pretty" (1933).

Kay Francis and Jeanette MacDonald joined Oakie for Leo McCarey's zany, often incoherent "Let's Go Native" (1930).

Movie star Thelma Todd makes a play for songwriter Oakie in "Sitting Pretty" (1933). The picture's prime melody, "Did You Ever See A Dream Walking" became one of Jack's favorite songs.

Paramount's elaborate plans for singer Frances Langford continued to drift off course in "Collegiate" (1935) opposite Oakie.

"That Girl From Paris" (1936). Oakie's first film under his new RKO contract was with Metropolitan Opera's Lily Pons. It was a remake of his 1929 hit "Street Girl."

Oakie was a studio press agent assigned to bolster the career of temperamental Lucille Ball in RKO's surprise 1938 hit "The Affairs Of Annabel."

Oakie was especially effective as a radio star in "The Great American Broadcast" (1941) with Alice Faye and John Payne.

Victor Mature, Betty Grable and Oakie have fun with "Song Of The Islands" (1942). The statuesque Grable was no longer Betty Coed, ingenue of several Paramount college B musicals.

Sonja Henie is escorted to Oakie and young Cornel Wilde in Henie's final 20th-Fox skating whirl, "Wintertime" (1942).

The stars gather together at a pre-production party for "Something To Shout About." Left to right: Oakie, Lily Norwood (Cyd Charisse), Don Ameche, Claire Trevor, William Gaxton, Janet Blair and Hazel Scott, at the piano.

Rosemary De Camp, Oakie, Ann Blyth, Donald O'Connor and Peggy Ryan as a family vaudeville act in Universal's "The Merry Monahans" (1944).

Jack Oakie and Richard "Skeets" Gallagher in "Fast Company."

Three adroit scene stealers, Oakie, Edward Arnold and Cary Grant, in "Toast of New York" (1936).

Jack with Wendy Barrie, Lyda Roberti and a moustache in "The Big Broadcast of 1936."

Jack, Warner Baxter and Alice Faye singing "Shooting High" in "King of Burlesque." Alice and Jack's friendship started on this 1935 musical.

"Young People" (1940) marked the end of Shirley's Temple's childhood Fox career. It was the usual Temple format about an orphan and a vaudeville couple, Oakie and Charlotte Greenwood, deciding to raise her as their own.

Mrs. Evelyn Offield, Jack's mother was a widowed school teacher from Sedalia, Missouri. Once Jack became an established star, he brought her to California. She played his onscreen Mother in "Close Harmony" (1933).

"The Social Lion" (1930) found Oakie and Virginia Bruce teamed with Mary Brian, "The Sweetest Girl In Pictures."

Paramount gave Mary Brian an opportunity to break the "sweetest girl" mold in "Private Scandal." With her close friend Oakie, Mary starred in "Someone To Love" (1928), "The Man I Love" (1929), "The Social Lion" (1930), "Paramount On Parade" (1930), and "College Rhythm" (1934).

In "The Gang Buster" (1931) Wynne Gibson played a gangster's moll opposite Oakie and the same year the vivacious pair also appeared in the hit "June Moon."

When Paramount did away with their football fever, 20th-Fox picked up the ball, with Oakie carrying it again in "Rise and Shine" (1941) opposite 17-year-old Linda Darnell and George Murphy.

The Gregory Ratoff musical. "Something to Shout About" (1943) found Oakie surrounded by Kay Aldridge, Veda Ann Borg, Cobina Wright, Jr. and Shirley Patterson.

Golden-haired Toby Wing's comedic talents were evident with Oakie in "College Humor" (1933) and "Murder At The Vanities" (1934). She sparkled as Paramount's campus sweetheart, projecting a Monroe quality.

It was Oakie who first discovered Joan Crawford in "The Ernie Young Revue" in Detroit and suggested her for the chorus of J.J. Shubert's "Innocent Eyes," in which Oakie was one of the Moulin Rouge Boys.

Blonde beauty Laura La Plante considers "Finders Keepers" (1928) her favorite film of all time. "We had a lot of fun on that film." Jack and Andy Devine played their first roles, as far as I know in it.

Oakie and the vibrant Veda Ann Borg had "Something To Shout About" (1943). The wise-cracking Veda Ann had no equal with her breezy touch projection.

Oakie and Lucille Ball again in "Annabel Takes A Tour" (1938). RKO intended to churn out additional Annabels but salaries put the budget over $200,000 per picture and RKO dropped the idea.

Oakie first met quick tempered Nancy Carroll in the chorus of "Innocent Eyes" (1924). Oakie and Carroll teamed again in "Sweetie" (1929).

SUNDAY NEWS
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August 16, 1936

Portrait of a young man
Jack Oakie 1927.

"Look-Alikes," Jack Oakie and his mother, Mrs. Evelyn Offield in 1933.

A Letter to Buddy Rogers

June 28, 1978

Dear Buddy,

The other day I read in Earl Wilson's column that you are announcing a tribute to our dear departed friend Jack Oakie. It is a noble deed that you are undertaking and well deserving.

I shall not go into lengthy details to confess to you how inspiring and helpful he was in our first hurdles to make good on our contracts with Paramount around 1927. His keen knowledge of show business, his fine wit and friendly suggestions served us further in our new careers. In the early part of this period you had already left for Texas to do "Wings."

I remember when we stopped off at Atlanta, Georgia, on our tour and Jack Oakie stepped in to save the day. The local civic committee arranged to have a few hundred youngsters watch an early Saturday morning show and meet the Junior Stars, but none of us had the eloquence to play the part of a host, so our good friend Jack Oakie came to our rescue and belted out song after song, and filled the theatre with hilarious laughter with his clever jokes and wonderful stories. It took a real showman to accomplish winning the hearts of these kids, in fact they wanted to stay for another showing.

I also remember when you were appearing with your band at the Brooklyn Paramount, you had to miss a performance and you asked me to take over, but right before the curtain went up, Jack Oakie appeared and quite politely asked me to hand over the baton, and once more a show was saved. His performance was done with the finesse of an Oscar winner.

About 1930 most of the original aspirants were now in Hollywood and hardship we did encounter, as our contracts were not renewed and Jack Oakie was in "between Pictures" but that did not dismay him a bit. He walked with head erect, always a smile on his face and had a big hello for everybody. He dressed most immaculately. His favorite attire was a black jacket, grey flannel trousers and his shoes always had a mirror bright shine.

We shared many economical dinners in our leaner days, and as I returned east for a life of commercialism and Jack Oakie went on to do great work in the films, our communication became shorter and shorter. Nevertheless, he always remained in my mind as a disciplinary person with great emotional depth and I was proud to know him.

Hope this finds you and Mary in good health and have a wonderful summer.

Lilyan joins me in sending our love,

Greg Blackton

Paramount contract player (circa 1928).

TRIBUTE TO FUNNYMAN OAKIE

Comediennes . . . Screwballs and Pratfalls - Funny Ladies

never published photos
by Lee Graham

I've always been a movie fan. When I was a school boy, and should have been doing homework, I was running around with my brownie camera taking snapshots of stars. In our last issue, we ran the comedians. In this issue, as a tribute to funnyman Oakie, we're running his female counterparts, funny ladies.

You may argue that some, Lombard and Arthur for two, were essentially leading ladies. True, but their forte was comedy. I hope these photos from the funny side of the street, which I took in the late thirties and early forties, bring mirth-filled memories.

ANN SOTHERN ALICE BRADY PATSY KELLY

ZASU PITTS PENNY SINGLETON BILLIE BURKE

MARIE WILSON

UNA MERKEL

MARY BOLAND & 12-YEAR-OLD FAN, LEE GRAHAM.

LUCILLE BALL

MARTHA RAYE

LUPE VELEZ

JEAN ARTHUR & CECIL B DeMILLE.

FANNY BRICE

CAROLE LOMBARD

JOAN BLONDELL

BEATRICE LILLIE

EVE ARDEN

CARMEN MIRANDA

HELEN BRODERICK

JOAN DAVIS

LOUISE FAZENDA

LEE GRAHAM . . . MAN ABOUT TOWN

Man About Town Oakie and Man About Town Graham with Martha Raye at a Shubert opening three years ago. (Photo by Yani Begakis)

George Hamilton envelops Susan St. James in his cape at Dracula's 710th birthday party on an MGM sound stage celebrating "Love At First Bite." (Photo by Yani Begakis)

Barry Manilow writes the songs — and sings them. He's seen doing the latter at Vegas Riviera where he broke attendance records.

Jack Oakie spread joy all over the world, but especially to his legion of friends around Tinseltown. He attracted people like no one I've ever known. And how he got around! Jack and his "governess," Vickie, were familiar figures for years at openings — not just lavish premieres or shows at the Music Center, but smaller houses. And parties — whether elegantly big or economically small, were always enhanced by jovial Jack's bubbly personality and fast quips.

This month, this Man About Town dedicates this column to the memory of Hollywood's real Man About Town, Jack Oakie.

With three parties in one day, it was more like the holidays than the end of a lazy summer.

It started at one in the afternoon at Eleanor and **Rudy Vallees'** hilltop home where "The Boys" (about Rudy's age) arrived early to play tennis and swim. The original "Vagabond Lover," looking and thinking much younger, was celebrating his 77th birthday.

Rudy was full of energy as he posed for pictures in a raccoon coat while holding a megaphone and later conducting a tour of his estate. The "estate" belonged to Ann Harding in the thirties. Rudy bought it for a song (that figures) and, with its projection room, spacious grounds and museum, it's estimated to be worth $2 million today.

From the Vallees' it was over to the Directors Guild where pioneer director, 83-year-old **David Butler,** was honored. "This is the first time I've been introduced by a King at a party for a Butler," Bob Hope quipped. He was referring to the honored guest and King Vidor, founding president of the Directors Guild.

Shirley Temple, who made her biggest hits as a child star under Butler's direction, cancelled a flight to London with her husband, Charles Black, to make a trip here from her Northern California home to serve as co-moderator with Hope.

After David narrated some silents in which he was an actor, a fascinating flow of scenes from his directional career began with the '29 musical, *"Sunny Side Up."*

George O'Brien, who worked with David in silents and talkies, was a surprise guest. The cowboy star, still rugged at 78, is seldom at his Brentwood home as he "follows the wind" and has been globe-trotting to every corner of the world.

Others reminiscing included Buddy Ebsen; Will Rogers Jr., representing his father whom Butler directed in five films; Jetta Goudal; Dorothy Lamour; and Jane Withers, whom Butler discovered when she was a 7-year-old tomboy.

Moving right along, we found ourselves at the Thalians' Presidents Club "Slipping Out" dinner-dance at Hugh Hefner's Playboy Mansion West. Guests were wearing smoking jackets, lingerie, and attire of the '30s at this soiree for those who've pledged $5000 or more to the Thalians Community Health Center.

Among those dancing, dining and shining with originality: Rita Hayworth and Mac Krim; Roxanne and Jack Carter; Jean and Cornel Wilde; Marlo Thomas and Phil Donahue; and Thalians' Chairman of the Board, Ruta Lee.

Lightning struck twice for the Vegas Riviera. **Barry Manilow** breezed in on a wave of hits and topped Steve Martin's attendance record two months earlier. Manilow not only writes the songs, he sings them — admirably. He topped off the evening with his current big one, "Copacabana," driving the fans into a frenzy.

The blond, 31-year-old superstar insists he hates the word, "superstar," explaining, "I'm just a musician who sings a little. Four years ago, if anyone had told me all this would happen, I wouldn't have believed them." "All this" meaning his incredible success with albums, singles, a TV special and clubs.

Manilow avoids parties and marriage. He just isn't socially inclined. He was wed once for almost a year and says simply, "I tried it and didn't like it." Barry lives with his dog, a Beagle named Bagel.

David Butler with Dorothy Lamour, whom he directed in three pictures, and Jane Withers, whom he launched as a child star, at Directors Guild tribute. (Photo by Yani Begakis)

Perry Como's last Southern California appearance was 40 years ago when he was a "boy vocalist" with Ted Weems Orchestra at Catalina Island. He returned for his first local appearance since at the Greek Theatre.

A lot has happened to Pierino Roland Como since the band broke up in '42 when Weems entered the Army. Jobless, with a wife and baby to support, Perry went back to his first job, barbering, in his hometown, Canonburg, Pa.

Before long he got a call for a radio show in New York. A few club appearances and a hit record, "Till The End Of Time," brought him to Hollywood. His less-than-spectacular screen career consisted of four pictures and ended 30 years ago with *"Words and Music."* The star of that one, Tom Drake, was at the Greek for Perry's opening.

With the advent of TV, Perry hit his stride. In the sixties, this "Walking Miltown," the most famous barber since Delilah, had the most expensive show on the air after signing a $25,000,000 contract with Kraft foods.

Today, the Relaxed One lives with his wife, Roselle, and family consisting of two sons, a daughter ("She's the light of my life. I think she's49") and grandchildren in Jupiter, Florida. At 66, he interrupts his golfing only occasionally for a recording session, TV special or Vegas gig. And, every forty years a concert in LA.

Rita Hayworth, escorted by Mac Krim, in smoking jacket, at Thalians Presidents' Club bash hosted by Hugh Hefner at his Playboy Mansion West.

Prior to his first local appearance in 40 years at the Greek Theatre, Perry Como receives the key to the city.

Count Dracula observed his 710th birthday with a party at MGM in an unusual vein. Although he requested no gifts, he asked that we make a donation to the local blood bank in his name — an investment in his future, you know.

Joining in the ghoulish delights were George Hamilton, Susan Saint James, Arte Johnson and Richard Benjamin (he rushed home to be with his wife, Paula, and their new-born daughter, Prentiss). They just happen to be the stars of *"Love At First Bite,"* a modern day story of Dracula's adventures in New York where he goes lock, stock and coffin, after being evicted from his Transylvanian castle. The eerie castle was the setting for the party.

George Hamilton (Dracula) was batting around in his best vampire cape. He's not only the star, he's co-producer of "Love At First Bite." Talking to Hamilton, who made it via the old-style glamour route, it's obvious he has traded in socializing for soul-searching. The former Playboy of the Western Whirl eats health foods, does daily isometric exercises, spends as much time as possible with his three-year-old Ashley and avoids the night life of which he was once an important part. Thirty-nine-year-old George says, "I sometimes watch me in the mirror and think, Christ, he's pompous looking."

Debbie Reynolds works as hard at her projects as at her career. For the third year, the busy do-gooder hosted a carnival at Pip's with proceeds, at $25 per person, going to the Hollywood Motion Picture and Television Museum, which Debbie spear-heads. Her voice was loud and clear at the MGM memorabilia auction and she has a fabulous collection in storage.

Pandemonium predominated as 300, many dressed in circus and carnival outfits, discoed, gambled for donated gifts, and wandered about — all for the cause. Una Merkel told me this was one of the few times she had been out in recent years. She's been ill "with everything but a pregnancy," but once again she's full of zip and good humor. Amy and Kevin Brophy (TV's "Lucan") rushed home to be with their four-day-old son. Others were Shelley Winters; Judy Canova; Trini Lopez; Patsy Kelly who was Debbie's mother in *"Irene";* Kathy Lauter and Erik Estrada, and Johnnie Ray, off on an Australian tour. ☆

Every citizen of both Missouri and the United States will miss the passing of a great Missourian, Jack Oakie.

Jack was a truly delightful person who, over the years, warmed the hearts of millions with his unique and superb talent. He was a truly gifted actor and an outstanding American.

Stuart Symington
1700 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Jack and Vickie at dedication of the plaque in the parkway commerating his birth. in the house at 522 W. 7th Street, Sedalia, Missouri.

Artists who create animated films

VETERAN DISNEY ANIMATORS (clockwise) Woolie Reitherman, Ollie Johnston, Frank Thomas and Eric Larson, who created — and caricatured — the characters in Walt Disney's "The Jungle Book," are themselves caricatured by fellow Disney artist Mel Shaw. Phil Harris, Sebastian Cabot, Louis Prima, George Sanders and Sterling Holloway provide voices for the Technicolor film, directed by Reitherman.

VETERAN DISNEY ANIMATORS (from left) Eric Larson, Wolfgang Reitherman, Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnson — whose work is seen in Walt Disney's animated comedy feature, "The Jungle Book" — discuss "The Fox and the Hound," the studio's next cartoon film.

MOWGLI BOOGIES as his panther friend tries to save him from a bad situation in Walt Disney's animated comedy feature, "The Jungle Book." Phil Harris, Sebastian Cabot, Louis Prima, George Sanders and Sterling Holloway provide the voices for the color by Technicolor film based on stories by Rudyard Kipling. Wolfgang Reitherman directed the Buena Vista re-lease.

Nearly 65,000 days after they began working at Walt Disney Productions, four master artists are still helping to create the Studio's classic animated films -- from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" to "The Jungle Book" to the upcoming "The Fox and the Hound."

The four -- Wolfgang, Reitherman, Eric Larson, Ollie Johnston and Frank Thomas -- have, between them, worked on virtually every animated feature ever made by the Disney organization.

Although there were others at the Disney Studios whose careers paralleled theirs, these men have been with Disney the longest, each starting more than 40 years ago as a novice animator and eventually becoming creative leaders of the animation industry.

Eric Larson, who celebrates 45 years with Disney this year, devotes most of his time to training a new generation of animators at the Studio.

He worked mainly on the vultures in "The Jungle Book," and has contributed to every one of the animated features since "Snow White."

Reitherman, who has been producer-director on every animated feature since "The Sword in the Stone" recalls that his first assignment was to do the mirror sequence in "Snow White."

"The atmosphere was alive with creativity," he says. "And I think a little of Walt rubbed off on all of us. That guy was always deeply involved in his work and excited about every project."

Both Ollie Johnston and Frank Thomas echo Reitherman's remarks about Disney's enthusiasm. Retired since January 1978, the two maintain offices at the Studio, where they are writing a book on animation. It will include some "how to" material, anecdotes and their philosophies on art and entertainment developed over the years. ☆

Hollywood studio Magazine

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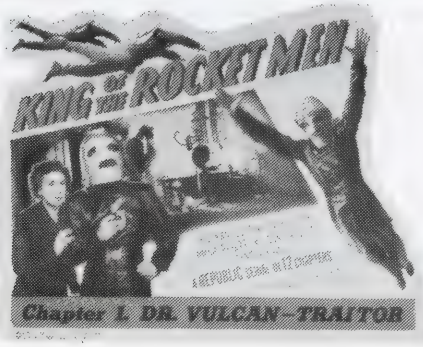

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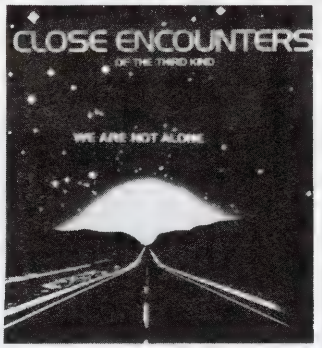

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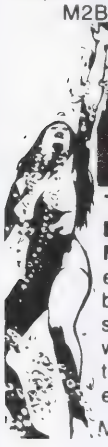

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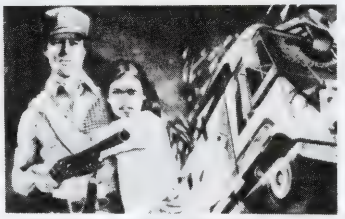

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A WALK INTO YESTERDAY

Continued

My husband thinks he knows movies. He insists Dolores Del Rio played Naturich in MGM's "The White Man." Please, for once can't I be right? I say it was Lupe Velez.

Hopeful
Brazil, Indiana

The 1932 re-make of "The Squaw Man" had Lupe Velez in that role, not Dolores Del Rio. For "once" you are right!

I need biographical details (not filmographies) of any or all these English actors appearing in Hollywood films and TV. John Alderson, Ivor Barry, Alan Caillou, Noel Drayton, Bernard Fox, Robin Hughes, Don Knight, Ronald Long, Arthur Malet, John Orchard, Tudor Owen, Richard Peel, Michael St. Clair and Ben Wright.

B.V. Bowers
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Cornwall, England

Sorry, I have been unable to locate any bio data on these players. Maybe some of our readers can help you.

Who sang "The Right Romance" in Fox's "Centennial Summer"?

I. Jenkins
Red Wing, Minnesota

Louanne Hogan who dubbed for Jeanne Crain.

Anjuchka Stenska, a lovely Russian actress and I both attended Moscow Film Academy. I had an extra bit in "Girl With The Hatbox" in a 1927 Soviet film in which she played. What is she doing now?

B. Guldowski
Lake Worth, Florida

Ann Sten devotes her time to painting. Her works toured Europe and many are in the Boston Museum collection. She divides her time between Beverly Hills and Hollywood.

Can you name some actors who played John Henry in films?

Name withheld on request
Tombstone, Arizona

I assume you refer to Doc Halliday (1849-1885). Stacy Keach, Cesar Romero, Jason Robards, Jr., Walter Huston, Kent Taylor, Arthur Kennedy, Kirk Douglas, Victor Mature, and James Griffith.

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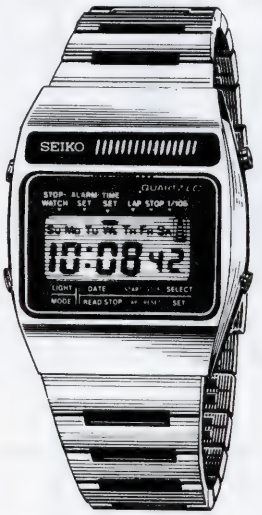

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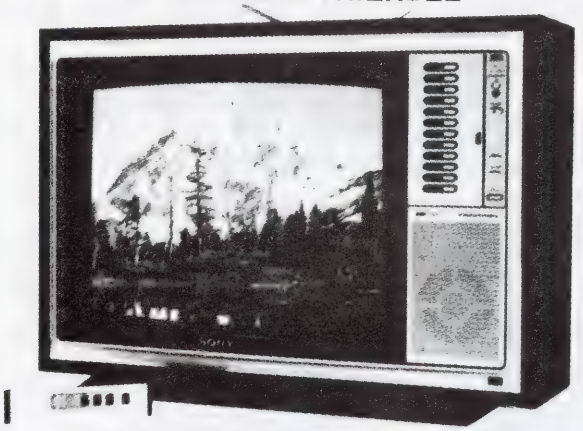

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MOVIEREEL / *Continued*

York with a line of products bearing her name . . . **Martha Scott** recently appearing in **"Married,"** puts on her Plumstad Theatre producers hat for **"October"** . . .**Henry Fonda** now appearing for 12 weeks in New York's Majestic Theatre in **"First Monday in October."** . . .**Phyllis Diller** named honorary board member of United Stroke Program . . **Jane Wyatt** is headed for Almeria, Spain . . . **Coleen Gray** has been signed by writer - producer - director Brian Pinette as the star of his feature film **"Forgotten Lady"** shooting in the Houston, Texas area . . . **June Haver and Fred MacMurray** to Perth for Australian Film Institute Awards "The Ozcars" (Downunder name.

FILM & TV FESTIVAL

The 21st annual International Film & TV Festival of New York, whose gold, silver and bronze awards are considered among the most prestigious in the professional film industry, will be held Nov. 1-3.

Competition encompasses all phases of production. The Festival includes Industrial and Educational Films, Television and Cinema Commercials, TV Programs, Newsfilms, Lead-In Titles and Introductions, Filmstrips.

Social highlight of the Festival will be the Awards Presentation Banquet, Nov. 3, at the Americana Hotel, when winners are announced and trophies presented by prominent actors and actresses. Among those who have participated in the past are Telly Savalas, Hal Linden, Rita Moreno, Celeste Holm, Gretchen Wyler and Barbara Britten.

Further details about the Festival or entry forms may be obtained from the Festival's office at 251 West 57th St., NYC 10019. (212) 246-5133.

Mill Valley Film Fest held recently in Mill Valley near San Francisco was a first time BIG success. The Fest (Aug. 11-13) was put together on a budget of $6500 but grossed closer to $7500.

The fest featured tributes to three local filmmakers, James Broughton, David Myers and John Korty, and included short films, a video section and moppet works.

Fest director Mark Fishkin said the response clearly points to a renewal in '79.

Coming November:— Don't miss our "Hollywood Rebels" issue. Montgomery Clift with Liz Taylor, Brando interview, Lana Turner interview, James Whitmore update, The Cauliflower Alley boys with a heart . . . Where "B" Pictures are today . . . and much more.

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Celebrity Dining

Exciting news from **Vic Bernardo** and his elegant sister, **Femy Cramer** of the China Trader supper club on Riverside Drive over Toluca Lake way. This delightful exotic oasis, I add, is a few blocks to **Bob Hope's** stately mansion on Moorpark Avenue and **Dorothy Lamour's** home a mere four blocks from the restaurant. Vic tells us that either in September or October depending upon when the license comes through, China Trader will offer disco dancing as well as top flight entertainment in their Copra showroom. They've been around over a quarter of a century and the same executive Chef Johnny Wing heads up the kitchen which puts out some mighty good Cantonese cookery.

We have so many requests inquiring about the colorful Yugoslavian Village on Barham Blvd., particularly after the news we printed that **Carroll O'Connor, Patrick O'Neal, Burt Lancaster, Sidney Pollack** and **Peter Falk** had all visited the little supper club and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The petite restaurant which is just at the top of the Barham Blvd. hill above the Burbank Studios has been undergoing a summer-long exterior remodeling and lest you think they are not open because of building next door, too, not so. Things have been a bit hectic, but business goes on as usual with cocktails, dinner and entertainment nightly except Mondays. Incidentally, according to Lana Simic the pretty owner with her husband, Larry, parking is available right across the street from Yugoslavian Village, permission of the nice Ramsey-Schilling folk.

Chums partied gorgeous **Francine York** - the glamourous actress most recently in a popular "Soaper" and currently at Callboard Theatre on Melrose starring in "Ghost Writer." While nibbling on the fresh strawberries especially prepared for her by **Chef Marcel Frantz** of the Aux Delices French Restaurant in Sherman Oaks (they recently picked up fifth Holiday Magazine award in a row!) The beautiful brunette confided she also has another lucrative offer hanging fire in the wings. **Stan Kann**, dining at Colonel John Lee's striking Chinese Szechuan restaurant in Encino, will soon make his Sahara Las Vegas debut but meantime his Canadian television series, "Stan Kann?" debuts September 8th in that country. Stan told us that one of him chums recently called to tell him that his

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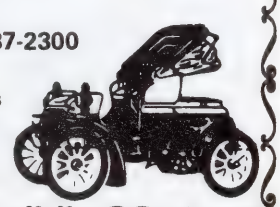

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Now that the Bert Reynold's starrer is packing them into the box office lines, it's cause for celebration from Walt Green (shown r) writer of the "Hooper" narrative - a great story of a stunt man. Joining him in a toast and to his new art exhibit at Michael's Canoga Inn is (l and center) Polish Count Michael Gaszynski, an award-winning artist himself, and Christian Bernaert, owner host of Michael's Canoga Inn, toasting 20 years for the restaurant and his beautiful wife Donna and new baby girl, Chantal.

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ISLANDS OF FUN • DANCING

name was used in the Crossword puzzle of the big 12 mil circulation strong TV Guide!

Dodie Goodman said goodbye to friends at the lively dinner hosted by Vern Lanegrasse at **Ho Toy's** popular Chinese restaurant in Sherman Oaks. She's appearing in a legit piece, "Winter Chicken" in Country Dinner Theatre productions in both Dallas and Austin, Texas. The charming actress returns January 15th to Hollywood . . . Dodie is a familiar and popular guest on Merv Griffin's show.

Quite a whirl for **Vern Lanegrasse** the popular **"Hollywood Chef"** of Channel 52 and a frequent guest on local ABC television as well as San Francisco's Ann Fraser and her Channel 5 daily noontime show. He was briefly home in West Hollywood from being a Judge at the National Chicken Cooking Contest in Tampa when he got official engraved invitations from the Spanish sherry folk inviting him to the Sherry Festival in Spain. This popular Chef - TV food and wine lecturer is in great demand all over the globe - chums hosted a delightful party for Lanegrasse at the award-winning Le Cellier, Santa Monica before he left. Dr. Duane Young and his beautiful Peggy hosted.

One of my favorite people and a top agent (he was **Irene Ryan's** agent for many years) **Kingsley Colton**, took his pert secretary Penni out on Secretary's Day recently for a long luncheon at the popular Eggshell Cafe in Tarzana. The brasserie-style restaurant offers, crepes, super snacks and French appetizers, luncheon and dinner specialties as well as sandwiches and oh, yes, omelettes. They're open from 11:30 A.M. daily straight through until 11 P.M. Cocktails, too. ☆

Handsome actor, Victor Mohica (shown) pauses for the cameraman's lens at Ho Toy's popular Cantonese restaurant in Sherman Oaks with pretty Queen-size model, Lynda Walker. Mohica just finished a feature film for television "The Deerslayer" and is into another. Ho Toy's is open for cocktails, luncheon and dinner.

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(11-'78)

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Lonely? Want friends with your interests? New inexpensive friendship/dating service. Nationwide all age. Tape-friends, 'Teen pals too. Free details. Spark Services, Box 872, Troy, New York, N.Y. 12181. (10-11-'78)

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Clippings of your favorite Stars. Send want list and self addressed, stamped envelope for details. Wanted Carmen Miranda material, will trade. Charles K. Stumpf, 722 N. Laurel St., Hazelton, PA 18201. (10-11-'78)

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Have fan magazines of the 50's, 60's & 70's for sale. Send SASE for wants and prices. G. Turek, 1970 Suffolk Ave., Westchester, ILL 60153. (10-11-'78)

CINEMUSICAL: Streisand, Minnelli, Grable, Day, Ann Margret, Monroe, Alice Faye, Diana Ross and countless others will be featured in the bright new bi-monthly magazine devoted to movie, theatre and TV musicals. Contains reviews, news, career articles and free classifieds. $Aust 7.50 air mail. Available now from Cinemusical, Box 635, GPO, Sydney, NSW, Australia. (11-12-2-3-4-5-6-'79)

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Discount Movie supplies, rewinds, film cleaners, film wipes, etc. Write: Coastal, 1428 San Marco Blvd., Jax, FL 32207 (8-9-10-11-12-2-3-'79)

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WANTED: Who's who in Hollywood Magazines. #1, (1941) 1951-'52, '53-'55. Screen World 1969-'70-'71-'72. Ray Hagen, 4707 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Wash. D.C. 20008.

JUNE WILKINSON material wanted. Clippings stills, copies of Career Girl, La Rabia and Playgirl for the Candidate. R. Kingman, Box 8035 Ottawa, Canada K1G 3H6 (10-11-'78)

WANTED: Photos, clippings on Jean Arthur, Grace Moore and Constance Moore. Ms. C. Hughes, 84 Wellmeadow Rd., Glasgow, 943 Scotland. (10-11-'78)

WANTED: Nude photographs of Helmut Berger in "Madam Kitty," Peter Firth "Equus." Correspondence with Berger fans. William Balloun, 3649 Via Mar Monte, Carmel, CA 93923. (10-11-'78)

Wanted to buy or trade uncut movie stars paper doll books from 30's to 50's. Rev. Morris Hamasaki, 1341 College View Dr., Monterey Park, Calif. 91754. (10-11-'78)

Wanted, studio portraits, stills, candids, S.P.'s, etc. of Richard Cromwell 1910-1960. P. Palmer, 560 Riverside Dr., 21-13, NYC. 10027. (10-11-'78)

WANTED — Buck Jones, 8x10 stills, portraits, candid shots, movie scenes, silent movie scenes. And I have Western stars 8x10's for sale $1.25 each. Italo Molinelli, 35-07 90th St., Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372. (10-11-'78)

Wanted: Anything on Jayne Mansfield, George Hamilton, Joe Dallesandro, Tina Louise, Montgomery Clift, Jean Harlow, and the film "Myra Breckinridge." I have movie posters, stills, and pressbooks for sale or trade. Kent Moon, Rt. #2 N. Box 165-M, Pocatello, Idaho 83201. (10-11-'78)

WANTED any material relating to Flynn, La Marr, Valentino, Leigh, Hayworth - stills, magazine covers, articles, posters & books. Joe Mikelas, 124 Hoffman Blvd., PGH, PA 15209. (10-11-'78)

WANTED: SUSAN HAYWARD photos, portraits, scenes. Newspaper, magazine articles, pictures. Describe. Buy or trade 40's and 50's magazine material on your favorites. June Johnson, 304 So. Brixton, Garden City, New York 11530. (6-8-9-10-'78)

WANTED: High price paid for Tennis Tournaments 16MM color prints. Also any material on Errol Flynn. (stills, etc.). B. Courtel, 27 Ave de Lamballe, Paris 16, France. (10-11-'78)

Anything from C.B. De Mille's "The Greatest Show on Earth." Stills, clips, etc. — Anything! Dom Yodice, 90-23 199th St., Hollis, New York, NY 11423. (10-11-'78)

WANTED: Books, magazines, recordings of Flynn & Gable. Also photos of Gable & Lombard. S. Beauford, P.O. Box 802, Estill, S.C. 29918 (10-11-'78)

WANTED: Posters, pressbooks, photos, etc. On former child star Tommy Rettig. Bob Finegan, 40 Beech St., Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6V1V1

I am a collector of **CAROLE LOMBARD** photos, magazine articles and pictures. Donna Fields, 418 N. 7th, Goshen, Ind. 46526. (9-10-'78)

WANTED by private collector: 16mm original prints of French movies, shorts or features, with or without subtitles. G. Tamarelle, 110 Cohasset Stage Rd., Chico, CA 95926. (9-10-'78)

WANTED: Anything on Elvis Presley. Record sleeves, pictures. All must be in V.G. to mint condition. Dolores Clagett, 22930 Furton, St. Clair Shores, Mich. 48082.

WANTED: ELVIS PRESLEY records, memorablia, etc. Also have various Elvis items for sale or trade. Send your wants to ANNA LABBATE, P.O. Box 1233, New York, N.Y. 10008. (8-9-10-11-12-2-'79)

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WANTED — Ava Gardner 1-sheets Pandora, Great Sinner, Mogambo, Three Men in White; Venus Statue; other memorabilia. Tom Banks, 1200 Hibiscus Ave., Pompano Beach, Florida, 33062.

WANTED — Ginger Rogers material. Especially recordings without Astaire. Sheet music; especially Astaire's own compositions, Ellen Dioguardi, Box 745, Stony Brook. N.Y. 11790.

WANTED — Any and all material on the brilliant new star Didi Conn. Please contact Andrew A. Richter, 7902 Hershe, Houston, Texas 77029. (9-10-'78)

WANTED — Anything on the "Wizard of Oz," Mae West, Martha Raye, Ann Miller, Dolly Parton, Margaret Hamilton. Duane Shell, R.R.I., Piper City, Ill. 60959. (9-10-#8)

MISCELLANEOUS

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Movie Memorabilia for sale — send $1.00 for 40 - page listing. Jim Szakacs, 545 Sherbourne St., Apt. 1509, Toronto, Ontario M4X1Wf Canada. (8-9-10-11-'78)

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FOR SALE: Beautiful hard-cover movie books, some movie stills, movie magazines. Listings stamped, self-addressed envelope. L. Stanton, 115 West Siebenthaler, Dayton, Ohio 45405. (9-10-'78)

INFORMATION WANTED
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Notice to customers of Clarence Johnson: Neither R. Kingman nor Valley Clipping Service, Box 8035, Ottawa Canada, is in any way associated with Mr. Johnson. (10-11-'78)

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INFORMATION WANTED
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TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

WANTED — Shirley Temple - pictures, stills, newspaper pictures, etc. of her as a **Child Star.** — E. Carroll, 145 N. 23rd St., Kenilworth, NJ 07033. (10-11-'78)

WANTED — I am interested in purchasing movie magazines of the forties. I am particularly interested in issues with articles on Guy Madison, Bill Williams, Gail Russell and Marie McDonald. If anyone has movie magazines of the forties write: P.O. Box 19001, Oakland, Calif. 94619. (10-11-'78)

WANTED — Theatre World's Vol. 1, 4, 6, 7. Broadway shows on 10" LP., W.R. Hagan, 470 W. 24 St., New York. NY 10011 (10-11-'78)

Am interested in securing review or synopsis of 1934 film "When Strangers Meet" made by Liberty Pictures. Kenneth Belanger, 6 Cottage Ave., Danvers, Mass. 01923. (10-11-'78)

WANTED: Anything and everything pertaining to the life and career of actress Ann-Margret. For trading purposes and reasonable price paying. Fred Gioffre Jr., 1281 Noah Rd., North Brunswick, NJ 08902 (10-11-'78)

HOTLINE WANTED!
Looking for a 16mm sound print of "Hollywood Canteen" complete uncut version original. Will pay $500.00 cash $$$$ Mr. John Principe 90 De Pasquale Ave., Providence R.I., 02903. Phone anytime (401) 421-8965. (10-11-'78)

Wanted: Clara Bow, Janet Gaynor, Joan Crawford pictures. Will buy, trade, etc. Mrs. C.S. Eddy, 2828 Rheem Ave., Richmond, CA 94804. (10-11-'78)

FOR SALE: 16mm color movie TV spots and trailers and Barbra Streisand and John Travolta movie material. Free list availabe on each. Randy Emerian, 5824 East Hamilton Avenue, Fresno, California 93727. (10-11-'78)

Have many magazines from the 1940's for sale. In excellent condition, prices very reasonable. Will send free list upon request. Daphne DiCastri, 902 Foul Bay Road, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8S 4H8 (10-11-'78)

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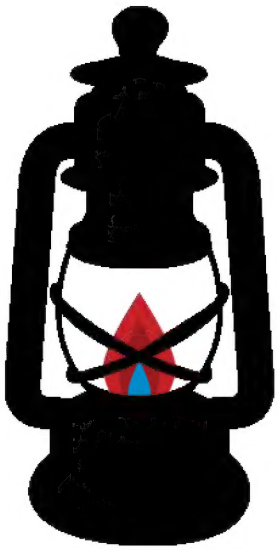

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